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U.S. Census Bureau

This release contains sensitive economic
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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products

April 2004

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary April steel imports were **\$1.3 billion (2.2 million metric tons)** compared with \$1.2 billion (2.2 million metric tons) in the preliminary March report.

The March to April change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected increases primarily in reinforcing bars, plates in coils, and standard pipe. Decreases occurred primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs and wire rods. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with Russia and Turkey. Decreases occurred primarily with Brazil and Australia.

The year to date final statistics through March 2004 showed steel imports of 6.1 million metric tons, compared with 5.9 million metric tons through March 2003. The largest commodity increases were in wire rods and blooms, billets, and slabs. The largest country increases were with Mexico, Germany, Canada, and Brazil.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is June 29, 2004